

COUNTRY Hungary

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TOPIC Organization of Communist Party Activities in the Hungarian Army

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. Prior to early November 1951, there were two organizations of the Communist Party within the Hungarian Army, the Organization of Working Youth (Dolgozó Ifjúság Szervezete) (DISZ) and the regular party organization. In troop units, both organizations worked independently of each other.
2. DISZ was an affiliated party organization, which accepted every soldier willing to cooperate in the community work. DISZ members, after proving their reliability, were recommended by the DISZ secretary to the Communist Party secretary for admittance into the party. Party candidates were interviewed by the party secretary; in most cases they did not dare to reject the offer of joining the party. They had to submit a written application, their life history, and testimonials by two party members. After a vote was taken in a party rally, the applicant was accepted either as a candidate or member. As a rule, every soldier who applied for party membership was accepted. A DISZ group existed in every company or battery. The group was represented by its DISZ secretary, either a full-time (fueggetlonitet DISZ titkár) or a part-time functionary depending on the personnel strength of the unit. Informants were appointed in each platoon and squad by the DISZ secretary. The DISZ group at company level was controlled by the regimental DISZ headquarters. The regimental DISZ headquarters formed a basic organ composed of a full time DISZ secretary, the cashier, the recorder, and a functionary in charge of cultural affairs, training, propaganda etc. The DISZ organization at regimental level was subordinate to the political officer of the regiment. Full time DISZ secretaries were also assigned to battalions.
3. The Communist Party had so-called basic organs in every company, battery etc. These organs were headed by the political officer or the political functionary of the unit concerned. The political officer was a full time official, the political functionary, a part time official. Both of them wore a red, five-pointed star on their left sleeve. Political officers had also a small, golden five-pointed star within the red star. The political officer of each company was assisted in his work by a party secretary. Like the DISZ organization, the Communist Party had informants in every platoon and squad. The political officers of companies were subordinate to political officers at regimental headquarters, and these, in turn, were responsible to political officers at division headquarters. Political officers and party secretaries were also assigned to battalions. The military party organizations cooperated with civilian party groups.

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